The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for Universalization of Elementary Education in a time bound manner by 2010. The SSA provides *inter alia,* for focused provisioning of infrastructure in Minority Concentration Districts, free text books upto class VIII, Urdu text books in Urdu medium schools, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya hostels in the Minority Concentration and Educationally Backward Blocks.

Additional admissions in IIMs and IITs

4037. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the Supreme Court's recent judgment allowing 27 per cent OBC quota for higher education, the number of additional admissions proposed to be made in various IIMs and IITs in the country for the ensuring academic year, so as to ensure that the general category students don't suffer; and

(b) the extent of additional grants proposed to be made to each of the IIMs and IITs for the ensuring academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Central Government proposes to increase the number of seats in Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Tecnology (IITs) by 54% in phased manner over a period of three years, to take care of the 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) category (excluding creamy leyer) of students so that the number of seats excluding those reserved for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), Physically Handicapped (PH) and OBCs is not less than the number of such seats available for the academic session immediately preceding the academic session in which reservation for OBC category of students is implemented.

(b) The additional provision for IIMs & IITs during the financial year 2008-2009 stand at Rs. 53.00 crores and Rs. 771.00 crores respectively.

Implementation of Ganguli Committee Recommendations

†4038. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recommendations of Ganguli Committee have been implemented in order to make admission of children in nursery convenient and discrimination free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations by the Ganguli Committee in the interest of children;

(d) whether it is a fact that some private schools are making excuses to implement these recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details of such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Ganguly, Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(CBSE) was appointed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court to recommend on matters pertaining to admission in nursery classes in Delhi. The Committee submitted its report directly to the Hon'ble High Court and not to the Government of India.

Assessment of NCTE Teachers' Training Institutes

4039. SHRI PRABHAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment or conducted any survey regarding the contribution of NCTE Teachers' Training Institutes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) In 1997, the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) had conducted a study to assess the performance of the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), which impart pre-service training through courses recognised by the NCTE. Similary, the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) had undertaken a study in 1999-2000 in respect of DIETs, Colleges of Teacher Educations (CTEs) and Institutes for Advance Learning in Educations (IANSEs). The studies have shown that in most States the standard pre-service teacher education programmes are implemented and have pointed to the need for relative improvement in the transaction of the course.

Merger of NCERT and NCTE

†4040. SHRI PRABHAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the areas of activities of NCERT and NCTE are different; if so, what is Government's rationale for their merger, particularly when NCERT itself is burdened with work; and

(b) the efforts being made by Government to improve the quality of teacher?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) There is no proposal at present for merger of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

(b) The Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganization of Teahcer Education is being implemented since 1987 in all the States/UTs to create a sound institutional infrastructure for pre-service and in-service training of elementary and secondary school teachers and for provision of academic support to elementary and secondary schools. Under this scheme 571 District Institutes of Education & Trainings (DIETs), 104 Colleges of Teacher Educations (CTEs) and 31 Institutes of Advance Studies in Educations (IASEs) have been established in the country. In order to improve the quality of teachers, these institutes organize in-service training programmes in a regular manner as also other capacity building programmes.

To upgrade skills of teachers, the scheme "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)" provides for annual in-service training upto 20 days for the elementary teachers, condensed courses for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.